

U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-348

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DC,  
WASH,  
529-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) U.S. Department of the Treasury		HABS NO. DC-348
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1836-1910	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) R. Mills, T.U. Walter, A.B. Young, I. Rogers, A.B. Mullett	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Financial headquarters for the U.S. government. No other government department has continuously occupied its present headquarters as long as the Treasury Department.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Sandstone, granite		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 3½ stories over high basement		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE E-shaped low-pitched roof sections, balustraded parapet, denticulated modillion cornice, East facade with off-center entrance at basement level, three story tall Ionic colonnade above, flanked by pedimented pavilions, each with two Ionic columns and pilasters; end facades, each Ionic pedimented portico, (Continued)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Mills' original sandstone building made use of fireproof construction; continuous masonry barrel vaults in main corridors flanked by groin vaults in each office give an unornamented sculptural appearance; later granite extension used iron decoration. (Cont.)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1908 -- East facade rebuilt in granite ; Cash Room remodelled, c. 1975 1910 -- attic story added		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE See field records for additional information.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION M. McDonald HABS Historian		DATE 8-17-84

Exterior features (Cont.):

pilasters, articulated bays; east side and central wing designed by R. Mills, constructed 1836-1842; plans for Treasury Building extensions designed by T. U. Walter, early 1850s; south wing constructed by Ammi B. Young and engineer Alexander H. Bowman, constructed 1855-1861; West wing constructed by Alfred B. Mullett, 1867-1869.

Interior features (Cont.):

Cash Room

The Cash Room was the last major new construction in the Treasury Building. It was begun in 1867 and completed in March 1869. The room measures 72' in length, 32' in width, and extends upward for two full stories. The walls were finished in seven varieties of marble. Only the upper cornices and the windows of the south wall are not marble. The base of the stylobate of the first story is black Vermont marble; the mouldings are Bardiglio Italian, a gray marble with black veining; the styles are dove-colored Vermont, uniform gray marble with white and darker gray splotches; the panels are Sienna Italian, Yellow with black and white veining; and the dies are Tennessee marble, pink with black and white splotched veining. Above the stylobate the contrast is Sienna Italian. The pale primrose Corinthian pilasters and cornices of white-veined Italian marble contrast with the darker colors of the stylobate.

The styles of the upper story use largely the same marbles as the lower, but the panels are of a Sarran Galum marble from the Pyrenees, one of the rarest forms. The panels of the dark-veined Bardiglio Italian marble are the same size as the windows of the south wall and are placed in corresponding position on the other three walls. The teller's counter is of the same marble as the stylobate of the lower floor, but the stylobate of the lower floor, but the Sienna Italian and dove-colored Vermont have darker hues. The balustrade which runs above the counter was originally of mahogany and plate-glass; the teller's cages were a later addition.

Doors in Cash Room

Transom with border, consisting of a leaf and berry branch relief in rectangular panels with corner square panels framing a flower relief, and with a center rectangular panel chased with the inscription: THE TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES flanked at each end with an eagle relief in profile with raised wings. Door beneath transom consists of two long rectangular panels opening from the center, each of which has an outer pierced border consisting of side rectangular sections framing two leaf and berry branches to either side of a round Indian-head medallion and of top rectangular sections framing a leaf and berry branch with corner square sections framing a flower motif. Each panel contains a pair of open frames set vertically in six rows into which are placed a cross motif composed of a pierced, stylized design. On the outer two doors, at the juncture of the top second and third pair of open frames, are two oval medallions containing a leaf and berry branch border around a circular relief of the Treasury Seal.

Ceiling Fretwork in Cash Room

Upper and lower borders of open fretwork (an intertwined "L" motif) with a wide, open, center section containing alternating radiating motifs, of corn ears and husks and of daffodil flowers and leaves, which are separated by floriated spirals terminating in the center in a grape cluster and at one end, under the radiating corn motif, in a star in a sunburst motif and, at the other end under the radiating daffodil motif, in a smaller star in a spiral motif.